

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended version:

[0032] The stage 504 includes interleavers 510 and 511, which are fused fiber interleavers but can also be implemented using thin film interleavers. Fused fiber interleavers are used in this example because the response is not as critical as the response of the first stage 502 and the fused fiber interleavers are less expensive. The second stage 504 further separates the channels such that each optical fiber exiting the second stage 504 includes two signals that are even further spaced apart. The final stage 506 of Figure 5 includes a group of interleavers 512 and fully demultiplexes the original optical signal such that each output fiber of the stage 506 only carries a single wavelength.

In view of the fact that Figure 5 of the application discloses a group of interleavers 512, as well as the fact that paragraph 0021 states "Figure 5 illustrates the combination of several cascading interleaver devices," Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is introduced as a result of the foregoing amendment to the specification.